

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Shosho for her time and consideration in discussing the present application with Applicants' representative on August 15, 2003. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Examiner indicated that amending claims 1 and 9 by deleting the formula (VI) compound therefrom would place the application in condition for allowance.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,973,025 (*Nigam et al*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,958,999 (*Bates et al*), U.S. Patent No. 5,665,150 (*Schwarz*) and Japanese Patent Document No. 06-184480 (*JP '480*). Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Bates et al* in view of *Nigam et al*, *Schwarz* and *JP '480*. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

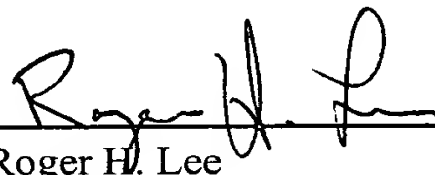
By the above amendments, claims 1 and 9 have been amended for clarification purposes by deleting the formula (VI) compound therefrom. As discussed above, the Examiner has agreed that the deletion of the formula (VI) compound from claims 1 and 9 would be effective to place the present application in condition for allowance.¹ Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

¹The Official Action at pages 4 and 6 states that *JP '480* discloses a compound which is identical to the formula (V) recited in claims 1 and 9. In a telephone conference with the Examiner on September 9, 2003, she indicated that the term "formula (V)" set forth in the Official Action at pages 4 and 6 should have been written as "formula (VI)."

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 20, 2003